August 19, 2000

Michael Buckley, Director
Flood Hazard Mapping Technical Services Division
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472

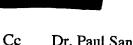
Dear Director Buckley,

had asked me on two separate occasions to forward information I had relating to historical floods (prior to 1892). I have been looking into this matter and wanted to share some of what I have found.

The most salient document (Attachment 1) contains information about the gauge used on the Congaree for water years 1893, 1894 and 1895. It clearly identifies a painted gauge on the first pier that has been in place since at least1852. In other words, the gauge straddles the historical period and the continuous recording period. Attachment 2 contains information about the Congaree gauge for water years 1911 and 1912. This brass gauge on pier 3 is calibrated to within .01' of the original gauge using the same benchmark.

I am gathering more source material, but the 1896 report clearly links the historical and continuous data. When USGS summarized their finding at the April 24 hearing, they relied on a faulty NWS summary (Attachment 3) that indicates the brass gauge had been in place since 1891, which contradicts the source material used in compiling that summary.

Sincerely,



Dr. Paul Sandifer, DNR